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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/898,060	07/05/2001	Shuji Yano	Q65306	1329
7590 07/22/2004				
SUGHRUE MION ZINN MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20037			EXAMINER TRUONG, BAO Q	
			ART UNIT 2875	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 07/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/898,060

Applicant(s)

YANO ET AL.

Examiner

Bao Q. Truong

Art Unit

2875



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 June 2004.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 November 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 6/09/2004 has been entered.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Masuda et al. [US 6,340,999].

Regarding claim 1, Masuda et al. disclose a LCD having a light pipe [3] with light emitting means [3c], a light source [2], a liquid crystal display panel [5] with a reflective layer [7], a polarizer [4] and an adhesive layer [10a] having a refractive index [1.38] lower than a refractive index [1.49] of the light pipe [3]; wherein, the light pipe [3] with a polarization section [4] is attached to the LCD panel [5] via another adhesive layer (figures 1, 2 and 10, column 2 lines 9-13, column 10 lines 50-65, column 11 lines 24-30 and 50-54, column 15 lines 25-39, column 16 lines 23-28).

Regarding claim 2, Masuda et al. disclose a refractive index [1.38] of the adhesive layer [10a] and a refractive index [1.49] of the light pipe [3] (figures 1 and 10, column 11 lines 50-54, column 16 lines 23-28).

Regarding claims 3 and 4, Masuda et al. disclose the adhesive layer [10a] having a full light transmittance of 90% or more, or its haze value of 10% or less (column 16 lines 23-28).

Regarding claim 5, Masuda et al. disclose the light pipe [3] having a light emitting means [3c] on the upper surface and an emitting light from the lower surface [the surface contact with layer 10, 10a] having a direction within 30 degrees from the reference plane of the lower surface (figures 1 and 10).

Regarding claim 6, Masuda et al. disclose the light pipe [3] having a light emitting means [3c], which composes of a plurality of asperities triangular [3f] with a tile angle [from a reflective portion 3e] of 35 – 48 degrees (figures 1 and 10).

Regarding claim 7, Masuda et al. disclose the light pipe [3], a light emitting means being a structure of prism-like asperities [3c] arranged at pitches of 390 μm , a reflective portion [3e] tilt angle of 35-48 degrees, a length of the reflective portion [3e] being 20 μm , a propagation portion [3d] tilt angle of 0 – 10 degrees, a length of the propagation portion [3d] being 370 μm (figures 1 and 10, column 11 lines 1-23).

Regarding claim 8, Masuda et al. disclose the asperities [3f] having ridges [3e] with in a range of ± 30 degrees (figures 1 and 10, column 11 lines 1-23).

Response to Amendment

5. Applicant's amendment filed 5/12/2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive because Masuda et al. disclose the light pipe [3] with a polarizer [4] being attached to the liquid crystal display panel [5] (figures 1 and 2).

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Kim [US 6,380,995] discloses a LCD with a polarizer.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bao Q. Truong whose telephone number is (571) 272-2383. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (7:00 AM - 3:00 PM).


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra L. O'Shea can be reached on (571) 272-2378. The fax phone

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Bao Q. Truong
Examiner
Art Unit 2875

BQT



JOHN ANTHONY WARD
PRIMARY EXAMINER